



PERSONAL GUIDE TO PRAYER

21 Days

OF PRAYER & FASTING

1/9 - 1/29

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CENTRAL CHRISTIAN

21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

Dear Friend:

As we go into this New Year, we want to set aside 21 days to pray, fast and focus on God. We have been truly blessed as a church and we want to continue to have people discover and fulfill their purpose in Christ. Fasting is not just an exercise for super-spiritual people, but rather a part of every believer's life. When I enter into times of fasting and praying, my spiritual compass is activated in a clearer way. Personally I have found it to bring about change and discipline in every area of my life.

When we join together, we are stronger, so praying and fasting for these 21 days is going to benefit us as a church. Contained in this booklet are excerpts geared to this season and the devotion is intended to enrich your understanding for your very own prayer time.

I pray that you will experience the presence and power of God in an extraordinary way as you commit yourself from January 9, 2017 through January 29, 2017. I also want to encourage you to carry high expectations throughout 2017.

May God continue to bless you as you seek Him first.

Pastor Larry

LIFESTYLE PRAYER

Once you learn how to pray, prayer can become part of everyday life. And then

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Before the day begins –
Before you go to bed –
Before you go to work or school –
Before you send that text –
Before you eat, drive or travel –
When bad things happen –
Before bad things happen –
In every situation – **PRAY FIRST!**

Ephesians 6:18

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

How do we make prayer a part of our everyday life? We can learn from three things that Jesus did ...

Mark 1:35

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

- A Certain Time. Jesus got up very early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. In order for prayer to work, we should do the same. Make a daily appointment with God and keep it.
- A Certain Place. Jesus had a prayer place. Your prayer place needs to be an undistracted environment where you can pray out loud and perhaps have some worship music playing in the background.
- A Certain Plan. Go into your prayer time with a plan. If it changes that’s fine. When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave His disciples a prayer outline. We call it the Lord’s Prayer. This outline, along with several other tools, is available in this booklet.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Luke 11:1

"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray..."

Matthew 6:9-13

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever."

"Our Father in Heaven..."

1. Connect with God Relationally

Romans 8:15

"You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father'."

God loves for us to call Him our Father. Establish your intimate relationship with Him and thank Him for the relationship you have with Him.

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"...Hallowed be Your Name..."

2. Worship His Name

Proverbs 18:10

"God's name is a place of protection – the righteous can run there and be safe."

What are His Names?

Righteousness – He makes me clean

Sanctifier – He has called me and set me apart

Healer – He heals all my diseases

Banner of Victory – He has defeated my enemy

Shepherd – He speaks to me and leads me

Peace – He is my peace in every storm
Provider – He supplies all of my needs

“...Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as it
is in Heaven...”

3. Pray His Agenda First

Luke 12:31

*“He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the
Kingdom of God your primary concern.”*

God’s priorities:

Saving the lost

Guiding those in authority – parental, spiritual, governmental, workplace
His will in us

“...Give Us Today our Daily Bread...”

4. Depend on Him for Everything

Psalms 121:1-2

*“I look up to the mountains – does my help come from there? My help
comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!”*

Ask God for what you want and need and then trust Him for the answer

“...Forgive Us our Debts as we also have Forgiven our
Debtors...”

5. Get your Heart Right with God and People

1 John 1:9

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our
sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

Ask God to check your heart and motives. Receive His forgiveness for
any area that He brings to mind.

Forgive anyone who has offended you in any way. You can even forgive
people in advance.

“...And do not Lead Us into Temptation but Deliver Us from the Evil One...”

6. Engage in Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:12

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Take your stand against the enemy and fight the good fight of faith. Every lie that the enemy has told you should be replaced with the truth of God’s Word.

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“...For yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory Forever.”

7. Express Faith in God’s Ability

Jeremiah 32:17

“Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.”

End your prayer time by reminding yourself of God’s ability. Return to praise and make your faith declarations.

“Yours is the Kingdom” – all rule belongs to You
“Yours is the Power” – all mightiness flows from You
“Yours is the Glory” – Your victory shall be complete

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PERSONAL PRAYER TARGETS

1 Timothy 2:1-4

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

Pray for those in authority and those under your authority.

MY GOVERNMENT

President _____

National Leaders _____

State Leaders _____

City Leaders _____

MY FAMILY

Spouse _____

Children _____

Parents _____

Siblings _____

Extended Family and Friends _____

MY CHURCH

Pastors _____

Small Group Leader _____

Small Group Members _____

Dream Team Members _____

MY LIFE

Employer _____

Co-Workers _____

Employees _____

MY SCHOOL

Teachers/Professors _____

Students/Friends _____

THOSE I INFLUENCE

Close Friends/Family _____

FRIENDS/FAMILY WHO NEED GOD

MY NEEDS

[illegible]

Day 1 – January 9, 2017
To increase in spiritual hunger

Psalm 51:10–12 *“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of my salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”*

Daniel 6:10 *“Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.”*

It was Daniel’s practice, three times a day, to go to an upstairs room in his apartment, open the windows facing Jerusalem, get down on his knees, and pray to the one true God. No doubt, Daniel prayed at other times also. He probably prayed throughout the day. But there were these special times, set aside times, where it was his priority to meet with God in prayer. In fact, it was such a priority to Daniel that when the king passed a decree that for the next thirty days people could only pray to the king, Daniel was unfazed. “No way.” Daniel may have been an important official in Darius’ kingdom, but when the king’s law (don’t pray) conflicted with God’s Law (pray), the choice was clear. Daniel just kept right on praying.

Of the many truths in this stunning chapter, one concerns Daniel’s prayer. Three times a day, he set aside a special time to pray. God nowhere commands us that we must do the same, but there is wisdom here. Wisdom would suggest a special time, or several briefer times, set aside each day to meet with God in prayer. A time we prize. A time we protect. A time we prioritize.

Reflect: What special time will you set aside in the next 21 days to talk and listen to God?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 2 – January 10, 2017

To draw close to the Lord

Psalm 24:3-4 *“Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.”*

Psalm 32:5 *“Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.’ And you forgave the guilt of my sin.”*

How can I sincerely draw close to a God who is all powerful, all knowing, and fully aware of all the reasons I do not belong in His presence?

It is a common malady of this Christian life to face serious insecurities when considering approaching God. Why the struggle? Because I know me! I know my propensity to sin. I know my inability to give God the righteousness He deserves. Praise God, He knows we have these struggles. And, He has an answer.

First, my confidence in drawing near to God is not based on my performance. My confidence is in the performance of Jesus. Hebrews 4 instructs us to come to God with boldness based on our full confidence in the finished work of Jesus on our behalf.

And second, my confidence in drawing near to God is based on His love. I can trust His love for me. And strangely enough, the very things in my life that appear to disqualify me – sin, weakness, failure, flaws, etc. – provide convincing proof of God’s love. If someone says they love you, but are not familiar with your past failures or current weaknesses, you cannot be sure they really love you. But if they are fully aware of the good and the “ugly” and love you anyway, you are truly loved. Praise God! He knows it all and loves us anyway. My sin and weakness become my opportunity to really know He loves me. I can really trust His love for me.

Today we draw near to God. We do this by uncovering the “ugly” side. We confess our sin. We reveal the part of our life that puts His love for us to the test (at least in our minds). And praise God again...He proves His love. He forgives and loves us anyway.

Reflect: According to Romans 2:4, what leads us to repentance?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 3 – January 11, 2017
To worship with a whole heart

Psalm 111:1 *“Praise the Lord. I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.”*

Psalm 27:8 *“My heart says of you, ‘Seek his face!’ Your face, Lord, I will seek.”*

In You, O God, I find my identity. When I come to seek You, I find that You are already here, seeking me. What gives my worship meaning is so much more than anything that I can do or say – it is You! You are the reason I came to exist. You are the reason I worship. I worship You with my whole heart.

I come to worship You because of who You are! You are the one and only true God! I bring You praise because of Your holiness.

I want to worship You with my whole heart. I am not ashamed to declare my love and adoration for You before others. All I am is Yours, and I belong to you. I am Your possession.

I long to recapture a spirit of genuine worship, a personal revival of my whole being, heart, soul, and spirit. All of creation submits to You, and so my life is surrendered to You. How can I be in Your presence and not be changed? I long to be the kind of worshipper that You have been looking for, fully devoted to You.

Reflect: How has being in God’s presence changed you?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 4 – January 12, 2017
To set the desire of your heart

Psalm 27:4 *“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”*

Psalm 37:4 *“Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”*

When it comes to setting our hearts in the proper place, there may be no better example outside of Jesus than an obscure often forgotten figure in the Old Testament named Ezra. He didn't lead the first wave of exiles back to Jerusalem; he led the second. He wasn't a powerful military leader, just a scribe. He didn't even show up in the book that bore his name until chapter 7 (out of only 10). But once Ezra arrived on the scene, he arrived in force.

We learn that the hand of God was all over this man (Ezra 7:6, 9, 28). That he successfully led 5,000 people with 30 tons of precious metals on a four month, 900 mile journey from Babylon to Jerusalem (Ezra 8). That he was supremely concerned about holiness and the purity of God's people (Ezra 9). And that he ultimately led God's people to repentance like few other scenes we read in scripture (Ezra 10).

So what's the point? The point is that all of Ezra's success can be Biblically directed back to the place where he set his heart. This is the key to Ezra's life of leadership and a clear guide to success with God in our own lives. Set your heart to the study of God's word. Set your heart to doing God's word. And set your heart to giving God's word away.

Reflect: According to Matthew 6:33, what should you seek first?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 5 – January 13, 2017
To walk in wisdom and revelation

Psalm 43:3 *“Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.”*

Ephesians 1:17-18 *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and the incomparably great power for us who believe.”*

Too often we slide slowly into the normalcy of pretending and stay there unaware.

Lord Jesus, open our eyes!

James, the leader of the Jerusalem church, reminds us that when we lack wisdom, we should ask it of God who gives generously. In Psalm 43, the Psalmist confesses that God's light and God's truth are the only reliable leaders, for they bring us to where He is.

As we continue our way into this consecrated season of prayer and fasting, we are coming together as a church praying that God would lead us, open our eyes, and give us the moving power of His Spirit in a fresh and awakening way.

Reflect: James tells us that God will give us wisdom if we ask. Will you ask Him for wisdom? He promises to give it to you when you ask.

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 6 – January 14, 2017

To be filled with power and purpose

Psalm 61:3 & 5 *“For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.”*

Psalm 92:11 *“My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries; my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes.”*

Romans 15:13 *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

As we near the end of the first week of fasting and praying, you may be tired. You may be wondering how you will be able to fast for two more weeks. It reminds me of how often in life we feel tired. Physically tired, spiritually tired, emotionally tired. We have so many things pulling at our time and making us tired. Our daily task lists just seem to get longer and longer with less and less time for rest. Do you ever have those days where you just feel completely drained? Like you have nothing left to give? I often ask myself, “How can I fulfill the purpose God has for me when I feel like I have no more to give?” The answer is simple. God’s Word, the Bible.

It takes discipline to keep our devotions at the top of the priority list. Especially, when there are so many other things fighting to be at the top of the list.

Reflect: What areas of your life are not bearing fruit and can be pruned? Where will you find more time in your schedule to stay connected to the Vine?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 7 – January 15, 2017
To find and fulfill your destiny

Psalm 139:24b *“...lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Psalm 18:36 *“You provide a broad path for my feet, so that my ankles do not give way.”*

Psalm 37:23 *“The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him.”*

Psalm 44:18 *“Our hearts had not turned back; our feet had not strayed from your path.”*

So often, we are the ones to decide what we want to be or do with our life. As children, we are asked “what do you want to be when you grow up?” But, finding and fulfilling our destiny can only be done in God.

Joseph was given a dream, David had an encounter with a prophet, and Joshua had a mentor. In all three cases, God conveyed His plan into the lives of these individuals.

Jeremiah wrote that God has a plan for your life and when you seek Him, you will discover your destiny (Jeremiah 29:11-13). Moreover, you find out His plan is far superior to yours.

However, all three experienced what Mary said in Luke 1:37, *“no word from God is without power.”* It is only the word from God that can sustain you in the long term. His plan for our lives is better than our own. The greatest joy, fulfillment, and success come when we seek Him about the direction for our lives and commit to follow His plan for us.

Reflect: Where do you believe God is leading you? Are you willing to surrender your plan to discover and live out His plan for you?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

PRAYER FOR YOUR FAMILY

Day 8 – January 16, 2017

To produce the fruit of the spirit

Galatians 5:22 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”*

1 Corinthians 13:4 *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”*

Once we ask Jesus into our lives, the Holy Spirit takes up residence within us. The apostle Paul gives some great advice for loving and living in the Spirit in Galatians chapter 5. He tells us we are called to serve one another humbly; to love others like we love ourselves. He goes on to list the fruit that comes from living in step with God, one of which is love.

Love is a loaded word. If you asked ten people to describe it, you’d most likely get ten different answers. The good news is we don’t have to guess what true, Godly love is. It’s spelled out for us in the Word. Love is patient and kind.

Reflect: Which fruits do you think you should ask God to help you bear more of?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 9 – January 17, 2017

To be saved and delivered

Psalm 18:2 *“The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my delivered; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”*

Psalm 16:11 *“You make known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”*

Acts 16:31 (AMP) *“Believe in and on the Lord Jesus Christ – that is, give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping, and you will be saved; [and this applies both to] you and your household as well.”*

Reflect: Who does your heart ache for God to deliver and save? Will you trust that God will do the impossible in their lives? In this painful and confusing time, will you trust God to be your rock? Take refuge in Him.

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 10 – January 18, 2017
To serve God together

Psalm 92:1 *“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High.”*

Psalm 100:2 *“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.”*

Joshua 24:15 *“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*

The Christian life was never intended to be a solitary one. Jesus shared His life with twelve disciples and then taught them to share it with others. The early believers gathered together to break bread and share the living Word. What we do each week in church is an expression of shared belief in Jesus – His body, a community of faith that gains strength and courage through worship.

But a full and meaningful life of following Jesus is built on much more than one hour a week in church. It requires personal devotion and an interdependency with others in prayer, study, fellowship, and praise. In other words, the best way to follow and serve Jesus is in community.

Modern families come in all shapes and sizes. Whether you're widowed, single, divorced, or living in a blended family, God has a group for you, a place of intimate belonging. This cluster of believers is a smaller version of the church, or we could say the church is a larger expression of the family unit. However we view it, the purpose is to be a place for love, acceptance, prayer, and to celebrate the communion of Jesus among us.

To share our hearts, burdens, and triumphs is important, as well as encouraging each other to stay strong in the Lord (Ephesians 6:18).

Reflect: Who is your family, your community of faith, other than the larger church you attend? How do you express love, acceptance, grace, and encouragement with them?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 11 – January 19, 2017

To be healed and reconciled

Psalm 107:20 *“He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.”*

Psalm 147:3 *“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”*

Malachi 4:6 *“He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”*

The Scripture says in Matthew 4:1, *“Jesus was led up by the (Holy) Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”* It was God the Holy Spirit that placed Jesus in that desert for that particular time. There are no mistakes in God’s plan.

The writer, Mackintosh, in referring to the Israelites leaving Egypt comments, “the sea was before them, Pharaoh’s army behind them, and mountains around them. And in all this, be it observed, permitted and ordered of God.” We are where we are today because God permitted it. As someone has said, “Nothing gets to the child of God unless it passes through His Hands first.” We must pray to the One who has control over everything. We must ask Him to do what only He can do. And, we must consult the Scriptures for guidance and hope.

Peter wrote in I Peter 4:12, *“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you...”* In other words, we should not be surprised when we find ourselves trapped in painful, frightening, difficult or impossible situations. As a matter of fact, these things are to be expected in this venture of following Christ.

If we are in a time of trial, He is here. Remember we are here 1) By God’s ordering, 2) In His grip, 3) Under His training, 4) For His time. But over and above that, our precious eternal Lord is here—He is the One who has promised never to leave or forsake us, never to forget or abandon us. So if we find ourselves in a difficult spot of needing healing and reconciliation, against all evidence to the contrary, there’s no better place to be.

Day 11 – January 19, 2017 (Con't.)

To be healed and reconciled

Real Healing and Reconciliation occur when we recognize we are exactly where God wants us to be.

Reflect: Are you in a difficult place right now? How can you allow God to bring healing and reconciliation in His way and in His timing? Ask Him to give you spiritual eyes to see where He is working.

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 12 – January 20, 2017

To receive a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit

Psalm 51:2 *“Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”*

Psalm 51:7 *“Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.”*

Mark 2:22b *“But new wine must be put into new wine skins.”*

It seems for many believers a major disconnect occurs between the heart and mind. That being said, a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit is greatly connected to our conscious awareness of His indwelling. John's gospel states clearly the sending of the Holy Spirit, 'the Comforter,' for encounter not only with us but to dwell (live His life) in us. We must be aware of His presence more than our sin.

Romans 8:5 *“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”*

Jesus having become sin for us dealt the death blow to sin's hold on us. Now the removal of the residue of sin's power is no less than Christ's promise to us.

Romans 6:11 *“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

There are many word pictures or descriptions of the Holy Spirit; one is water. Notice the request from Psalm 51 is for 'another' to wash, cleanse, and purify us. The very work of the Spirit invokes the idea of cleansing or purifying by literally being the 'Living Water' flowing in power from within. Also, Ephesians speaks of Christ and His bride *“that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.”* The living water and living word are ever present to do their work; we simply must say “yes” to His will and way in us and through us!

Reflect: Do you need a fresh awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life? Will you ask Him to fill you to overflowing?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 13 – January 21, 2017
To be served by visionary leader

Psalm 78:24 *“He rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven.”*

Habakkuk 2:1 *“I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me.”*

Proverbs 29:18 *“Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom’s instruction.”*

Proverbs 29:18 *“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”* This proverb takes on so many different applications to so many different settings. But let’s not mistake a ‘good plan’ as the complete thought here. A vision cannot be a ‘God given’ vision unless it is guided by ... well God. As Christians, we find our ultimate vision in the pages of God’s story, the Bible.

Vision is built. Not just by human effort and planning, but by seeking God through His Word and prayer.

Reflect: What dream is God revealing to you? Are you ready to train and chase after God’s vision for your life? Will you trust and pray for your church leaders?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 14 – January 22, 2017
To be a habitation for God's presence

Psalm 100:3 *"Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture."*

Psalm 95:7-8 *"For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care. Today, if only you would hear His voice, 'Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness'."*

1 Timothy 2:8 *"Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing."*

Matthew 13:58 *"And He did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith."*

The thought resounds: why not here; why not now? It is possible because our heavenly Father wants to exalt His Son over our community. There is not a formula to accomplish this, but there are some things we should give ourselves to as we invite Him to come. Christian researchers have discovered all 1,000 communities that are experiencing God's abiding presence have five things in common.

- 1) Persevering spiritual leadership
- 2) United efforts of prayer
- 3) Social justice and reconciliation, compassion evangelism
- 4) Public Power Encounters
- 5) Spiritual Mapping/Diagnostic Research: what's going on in your community, what are the desperate needs?

Reflect: How will you play a role in bringing God's presence to our community?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 15 – January 23, 2017

To value integrity

1 Samuel 16:7b *“The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

Proverbs 4:23 *“Above all else, guard your heart. For EVERYTHING you do flows from it.”*

Matthew 5:8 *“Blessed are the PURE in heart, for they will see God.”*

God looks at the heart. We cannot hide this from Him. The core of who we are, He knows. What we look at, think about, talk of, and act on is all made clear to our Creator. Integrity is from the heart.

Poor integrity does not protect the heart; rather, it tries to destroy it and disobeys God. Good integrity protects the heart, keeps it pure, heals, and ultimately obeys God.

Good integrity is not being perfect. It is humbling, repentant, and obedient to God even when no one is watching. Read more about private behavior in Matthew 6:5-6 and Matthew 25:31-46.

Reflect: Do you value integrity? Why does God choose to look at the heart of a person?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 16 – January 24, 2017

To be cleansed of sin

Psalm 25:18 *“Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.”*

Nehemiah 1:6b, 8–9 (NIV) *“I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name’.”*

1 John 1:8–10 says *“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.”*

God loves to take a sinful city and turn it into a revival center. He did just that in Antioch, Ephesus, Jerusalem, Nineveh, and more recently in Cali Columbia, Fiji, Guatemala, Uganda, Brail and hopefully very soon in our own community.

How does it happen that an entire community or city repents to the extent that it gets God’s attention and a transformation begins to occur? It begins by individuals getting honest with God, confessing their sin, and crying out to Him for forgiveness and freedom.

The real question is not, can it happen in our community, but will you allow it to happen in you? Let’s be honest before God about those things in our heart. Confess our sins to Him and repent!

Reflect: Imagine what our community would look like if a true transformation occurred among Christ followers. What are some things that would look different? Will you pray for the revival to begin in you?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 17 – January 25, 2017

To experience revival

Psalm 86:6 “ *Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?*”

Psalm 80:18–19 “*Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name. Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.*”

It is pointed out that 2 Chronicles 7:14 is addressed specifically to Israel. That is true. But surely the passage shows God’s heart for any people, any land.

What does God want from us? First, we must humble ourselves. We must admit that God is God and we are not. We must submit to God and come to Him in brokenness and repentance.

2 Chronicles 7:14 “*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*”

Second, we must pray and seek God’s face. No revival or awakening comes without prayer. Extensive prayer. Fervent prayer. Corporate prayer. Continual prayer.

It is worth noting that the prayer here is focused on seeking God’s face and not God’s hand. We are seeking God for Himself and not for what He gives us. We are locked in on God’s glory, not on our need.

Third, we must turn from our wicked ways. God wants obedience, not religious ceremony. We cannot just say the words of repentance and pray the prayers of repentance. We must do the deeds of repentance and obey God in every part of life.

Reflect: During this time of prayer and fasting, have you humbled yourself before God? How will you continue to pray and seek God’s face when our 21 days are over?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 18 – January 26, 2017
To uphold righteousness and justice

Psalm 89:14 *“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.”*

Matthew 6:33 *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

As Christ followers, God makes it clear that we are to take a stand against injustice and fight for those who do not have the ability to fight for themselves. *“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.” (Isaiah 1:17)* When I compare this command to the statistics of injustices like human trafficking, poverty, homelessness, domestic abuse, and so many others, I begin to feel helpless. How do we even begin to act justly when injustice seems to be taking over? Where do we start?

Reflect: What injustices cause your heart to break? Where is God giving you influence to fight injustice?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 19 – January 27, 2017

To experience God's presence and power

Psalm 43:3-4 *"Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God."*

Reflect: Have you met and encountered the Holy Spirit of God? When and where was that? What led up to that encounter?

How are you different because of that moment? What has changed in and around you because of that?

As we begin to draw our time of fasting to a close, where has God shown up?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 20 – January 28, 2017

To be filled with God's glory

Psalm 22:27-28 *"All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations."*

Habakkuk 2:14 *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."*

At a time when Israel was rebellious, immoral, and indifferent towards God, Moses prayed, "Lord, show me Your glory!" God was quick to respond to this prayer. And Moses saw with his own eyes a portion of the glory of God. But he also heard the voice of God declaring His glory:

God defined His glory by describing His nature. "I am the Lord, God! I am compassionate, merciful, loving and forgiving. And I am perfectly just and will not excuse the guilty."

So when we pray for God's glory to come, we are praying for His nature to overwhelm our nature. We are seeking His nature to drive out the influence of sin nature, demonic nature, or any influence in a region or culture that is counter to Him.

This hour for us is not unlike the time when Moses prayed this great prayer. We, too, are at time when our nation and the world have never been so contentious with God. The name of Jesus stirs deep resentment in many people. Holiness is rare. Morality is in rapid decline. And the church of Jesus Christ is in a battle for its existence. In America, 3,500 to 4,000 churches a year close their doors. Churches lose 2.7 million people a year to nominalism or secularism. And 1,500 pastors a month are leaving the ministry. (Barna stats).

Reflect: Will you begin to pray, "Lord, show us Your glory" so that the world will see and know him? What does it look like to be the 'salt and light' in the workplace, school, or neighborhood you live in?

Prayer: Write down your prayer.

Day 21 – January 29, 2017

To continue to seek God first

Psalm 9:10 *“Those who know your name trust in You, for You, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You.”*

Jeremiah 29:13 *“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”*

1 Chronicles 29:13 *“Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God.”*

Colossians 3:2 *“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”*

For the last 21 days, we have been chasing after God as we pray and fast. We have deliberately chosen to focus on Him and seek His presence. We have deliberately chosen to take time to read His Word and listen to His voice. For some of us, we can honestly say we didn't really 'hear' from God in a profound way during this time. For others, this has been an amazing time of growth, and we have felt His guidance and direction about something we were seeking. Regardless of what we have learned through this time or if we have 'cheated' on something we were going to fast from, these past 21 days have been crucial to us because we have obeyed God's command to seek His presence. It is always a beautiful thing when we chase after God and we put Him first because we desire to know Him more. And He promises us that when we seek Him, He will be found.

As we conclude our 21 days of prayer and fasting, it is important to ask, “Now what?” How can you remain committed to seeking Him? Very simply, decide to love God and seek Him. That's right, decide. Look for opportunities to spend time with Him and to learn from Him. Daily. Decide to chase after Him and not the things of this life that quickly distract us from Him. Daily. Give Him your whole heart. Daily. Look for Him in each day, through people, circumstances, the Bible, and creation. Daily. It will take intention, effort, desire, and time. But it will be so worth it as your relationship with Him grows, develops, and you fall more and more in love with Him. Hebrews 11:16 says that God will reward those who earnestly seek Him. Will you continue to earnestly seek after the God of this universe who loves you completely and desires to walk with you daily? The reward will be great because God is great!

Reflect: How will you continue to pray and seek God through Scripture now that our 21 days of prayer and fasting was ending? Will you pray daily for a

hunger and a thirst to chase after God and seek his presence? What will you commit to intentionally doing so that you are seeking God daily? Please pray for the worship service. Pray that this time of prayer and fasting will accumulate into a beautiful time of worship as we conclude with communion at our campuses.